

Agricultural Commission Meeting

June 8, 2010

Room 101, Bangs Community Center

Present: Touria, Sally, Ruth, Pat, and Wm. – Richard, D. Ziomek, D. Stein (liaisons)

Agenda:

1. Sub committee reports
2. Planning and Select Board reports
3. Water use/irrigation

Touria volunteered for Education subcommittee

Sally reported on Ed subcommittee (see attached printed notes on proposed goals) – The AgCom endorsed Ed subcommittee goals (5-0):

Wm. reported on Mkt. Subcommittee (goals approved (5-0) –

Goals:

- Promote and advocate for market opportunities for Amherst farmers,
- Advance proposal for Amherst winter farmers market open to Amherst and area farmers
- Facilitate dialog with stakeholders of the downtown Amherst summer market
- Clarify town position on peddlers and venders – D. Ziomek suggested looking into Rights of Way as well as sidewalk thru town council

M. Docter has a grant from USDA Rural Development to undertake a feasibility study of a permanent regional winter market. His charge is to identify a location and farmers, and initiate organization of the project. Discussed use of schools as a location for a weekly winter market. DZ proposed Ron Bahunowicz, facilities manager for Amherst. Bang center was also proposed. Proposed frequency of a winter market was discussed, as were access, security, and clean-up costs. DZ reminded the group MA Development already produced a feasibility study for a Pioneer Valley year-round market.

Ruth pointed out Amherst summer farmers market expansion/improved inclusivity was not a goal of the marketing sub committee. Discussion ensued about whether AgCom could influence TOA to advocate for all Amherst Farmers. Richard and DZ both endorsed the concept of an AgCom charged with advocating for all Amherst farmers.

Richard, Planning Board liason presented his agenda for the next P.B. meeting. Neighborhood development, modifications document for applicants to the P.B., and Atkins corner development are all on the docket.

Per D. Stein, Select Board's continuing agenda includes a resolution on AZ, note due on classroom trailers, engineering of a rotary @ North Pleasant and Eastman Lane.

Approved at the July 13, 2010 Agricultural Commission meeting

S. Fitz mentioned John Gerber's proposed warrant favoring local food purchase by Amherst schools

Mike at DPW is working on water data to present to AgCom.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wm. Levine

**Amherst Agricultural Commission
Education Subcommittee – Proposed Goals
June 2010 – June 2011**

By June, 2011, the Amherst Agricultural Commission will:

1. Host 2 workshops for farmers regarding issues of concern/need.
 - Labor
 - Another issue (development pressures/state regulations)
2. Connect Amherst Public Schools with resources that will:
 - Increase their purchasing of local farm products
 - Begin an after-school gardening program
 - Integrate Amherst farms into their community service offerings
3. Create a list of topics that the Ag Com Education Committee might address for educating the public.